

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A pressure relief arrangement for a housing including two housing portions comprising:

a sealing member disposed between the two housing portions;

fastening_{first} means for applying compressive sealing force between the two housing portions; and

rupture disc member_{second} means operative with said fastening_{first} means and independent of said sealing member such that the fastening_{first} means applies the compressive sealing force between the two housing portions solely through said rupture disc member_{second} means for responding to overpressure within the housing, said rupture disc member_{second} means comprising at least one disc-shaped member being loaded in shear and becoming disintegral in response to the overpressure exceeding a predetermined value, said disc-shaped member having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross section to which the shear loading is applied.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The pressure relief arrangement of claim 1 wherein said fastening_{first} means and said disc-shaped members are dimensioned and assembled to focus applied forces in a predetermined manner to said e disc-shaped members.

5. (currently amended) The pressure relief arrangement of claim 1 wherein said fastening_{first} means includes bushing_{third} means for focusing applied forces to said rupture disc member_{second} means.

6. (currently amended) The pressure relief arrangement of claim 5 wherein said fastening_{first} means further comprises alignment disc_{fourth} means for aligning said fastening_{first}, rupture disc member_{second} and bushing_{third} means.

7. (currently amended) A pressure relief arrangement for a housing comprising: first and second housing portions, a sealing member disposed between the two housing portions, fastening_{first} means for applying compressive sealing force between the two housing portions and rupture disc member_{second} means independent of said sealing member for responding to overpressure within the housing, said rupture disc member_{second} means cooperating with said fastening_{first} means such that the fastening_{first} means applies the compressive sealing force between the two housing portions solely through said rupture disc member_{second} means, said rupture disc member_{second} means comprising at least one disc-shaped member being loaded in shear and becoming disintegral in response to the overpressure exceeding a predetermined value, said disc-shaped member having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross section to which the shear loading is applied.